MINUTES ADOPTED BY CITY COUNCIL

Greenville, NC
February 1, 2003

The Greenville City Council held its annual planning session on the above date at 8:30 AM in Sheppard Memorial Library.   The following were present.

Mayor Robert D. Parrott
Mayor Pro-Tem Ric Miller
Council Member Mildred A. Council
Council Member Ray Craft
Council Member Pat Dunn
Council Member Rose H. Glover
Council Member Chip Little
Marvin W. Davis, City Manager
Wanda T. Elks, City Clerk
David A. Holec, City Attorney

Mayor Parrott called the meeting to order, welcomed the Council and staff to the planning session, and introduced Janice Faulkner, the facilitator for the session. Ms. Faulkner was congratulated for her recent receipt of the "Citizen of the Year" Award.

City Manager Davis stated that in December 2001, the present Council was installed and in January 2002, they held their first planning session. On February 6, 2002, the City found out that State revenues were being withheld by action of the Governor. With very limited revenues, the City staff accomplished many very important goals that were established by the City Council at the 2002 planning session.

Ms. Faulkner explained that during this planning session the Council will be establishing their priorities and how to align resources in order to pay for those priorities. After reviewing the agenda, the Council Members were informed of the outcomes that were expected to come out of this planning session.

➢ To develop consensus for FY 2003-2004
➢ To identify long-range priorities and investments
➢ To renew commitment to serve the people well

The groundrules were reviewed with the Council. They included taking turns, respecting the ideas of others, speaking freely and frankly, staying open-minded, relaxing and having fun, not interrupting, not saying "but", not challenging, not refuting, not debating, not lobbying except during break and lunch, and not picking nits.

The Council was asked to think about things they have to, must or will spend money on during the next budget year. During the course of the brainstorming session, 32 items were mentioned. After the items were noted, the Council was asked to vote on the top three items of importance.

Three points were assigned to the most important, two points to the next most important, and one point to the third most important. The votes for each and a listing of all of the items mentioned are as follows:

	Points	Votes
➢ Crime containment	12	4
➢ Revitalization of blighted areas	11	5
➢ Economic development	7	3
➢ Reorganize government	5	3
➢ Update technology	3	3
➢ Crime prevention	3	2
➢ Create a performance based budget	1	1
➢ Increase neighborhood association activity	0	0
➢ Comprehensive community policing strategy	0	0
➢ Infrastructure needs	0	0
➢ Complete greenways	0	0
➢ Youth initiatives	0	0
➢ Tenth Street connector	0	0
➢ Properly staff all fire stations	0	0
➢ Increase recycling	0	0
➢ Improve partnerships	0	0
➢ Look at future growth areas and identify them	0	0
➢ Improve town commons	0	0
➢ Transportation improvements	0	0
➢ Enhance partnerships in the community working for the City of Greenville	0	0
➢ Continuous training of City Council	0	0
➢ Increase lobbying in Raleigh	0	0
➢ Complete Horizons Update	0	0
➢ Receive earmarks from Capitol Hill	0	0
➢ Ensure environment is clean	0	0
➢ Reassess recreational facilities in the City of Greenville	0	0
➢ Streamline opportunities with the County	0	0
➢ Create a budget philosophy	0	0
➢ Bring variety of citizens together for fun activities or events	0	0
➢ Ensure diversity at all levels in government and in the community	0	0
➢ Partner with schools for educational improvements	0	0
➢ Tenth Street Connector	0	0

The Council was then told that most of these items could be clustered into just a few different subjects, meaning that there is a great deal of similarity of the issues of the Council Members. The items, as clustered by Ms. Faulkner, were as follows:

Crime containment

➢ Revitalization of blighted areas
➢ Crime prevention
➢ Youth initiatives
➢ Reassess recreational facilities in the City of Greenville
➢ Comprehensive community policing strategy
➢ Increase neighborhood association activity

Economic development

➢ Infrastructure needs
➢ Tenth Street Connector
➢ Look at future growth areas and identify them
➢ Ensure environment is clean
➢ Transportation improvements
➢ Complete greenways
➢ Improve town commons

Reorganize government

➢ Properly staff all fire stations
➢ Update technology
➢ Continuous training of City Council
➢ Create a budget philosophy
➢ Increase lobbying in Raleigh
➢ Receive earmarks from Capitol Hill
➢ Streamline opportunities with the County
➢ Create a performance based budget

Improve partnerships

➢ Enhance partnerships in the community working for the City of Greenville
➢ Partner with schools for educational improvements
➢ Ensure diversity at all levels in government and in the community

Update Technology

(No specific items were listed under the "update technology" heading)

The Council was then asked to consider the barriers, internal threats or obstacles that could keep them from accomplishing the items under each heading that had just been discussed. After listing them, the Council was then asked to vote on the items that would be most difficult to overcome, second most difficult to overcome, and third most difficult to overcome. Three points were assigned to the most difficult to overcome, two points to the next most difficult to

overcome, and one point to the third most difficult to overcome. The votes for each and a listing of all of the items mentioned are as follows:

	Points	Votes

Crime Containment and Prevention/Revitalization

	Points	Votes
➢ Lack of focus	7	4
➢ Not dealing with getting to the real issues (causes) of crime	2	1
➢ Lack of funds	0	0
➢ A too narrow explanation of the factors/not broad enough focus/lack of definitive data	0	0
➢ Not educating ourselves/lack of benchmarking with programs with success	0	0
➢ Lack of definitive policy and measure of policy's success	0	0
➢ Lack of a strategy to activate/engage the community	0	0

Partnerships

	Points	Votes
➢ Politics/turf battles	8	4
➢ Fear of compromise/outcomes	1	1
➢ Lack of knowing what is out there and who they should be	0	0
➢ Lack of willingness	0	0
➢ Lack of willingness to share credit	0	0
➢ Fear of ownership	0	0
➢ Fear of cost	0	0
➢ Lack of knowledge and skill to form partnerships	0	0
➢ Loss of control of the agenda	0	0
➢ Lack of partners	0	0

Reorganizing Government

	Points	Votes
➢ Lack of consensus of how/fear of change/turf control	10	4
➢ Know what it is that should change/don't know where we are going	0	0
➢ Not identified the outcome	0	0
➢ How do we meet the wide range and diverse needs of the citizens with our deliverable services?	0	0

Economic Development

	Points	Votes
➢ Resources and funds	9	4
➢ Fear of the risks from Council's level and citizens	3	1
➢ Patience/Perseverance	1	1
➢ Lack of vision during hard economic times	1	1

➢	Iraq War	0	0
➢	Public Opinion	0	0
➢	More independent/need Greenville lobbyist/examine current climate and is it working for Greenville?	0	0
➢	Know and agree on goals	0	0
➢	Sidetracked by own agendas	0	0
➢	Lack of partnership development	0	0

Updating Technology

➢	Cost	0	0
➢	Fear of the unknown	0	0
➢	Commitment to spend money	0	0
➢	Learning curve	0	0
➢	Resistance to change	0	0
➢	Training/support	0	0
➢	Belief if you invest in technology, it will be better/ reduce costs	0	0

The Council was asked to look at the obstacles and barriers that were in each category and to understand that almost any of the ones listed could fit into any category. They are universal regardless of the issue.

The Council was then asked to think long range about the capital investments, infrastructure projects, etc. that will need to be undertaken during the next ten years. The Council was asked to brainstorm and to come up with items to include. The Council came up with a list and then was asked to vote on the top three, with each person's first choice receiving three points, second choice receiving two points, and third choice receiving one point. The results were as follows:

		Points	Votes
➢	Tenth Street Connector	11	6
➢	Southwest Bypass	11	4
➢	West Greenville Revitalization	7	3
➢	Completion of the Revitalization Plan	6	3
➢	Regional Transportation	2	1
➢	Parking Decks	2	2
➢	Fire Station #6	2	2
➢	Strategic Plan Growth Areas	1	1
➢	Neighborhood Parks	0	0
➢	Beginning of the Revitalization Plan	0	0
➢	Implementation of the Stormwater Management Plan	0	0
➢	Implementation of the Greenways Plan	0	0
➢	City Facilities (New Office Building)	0	0
➢	Downtown Arena	0	0
➢	Amphitheater/Town Common	0	0

➤	Professional Sports Team	0	0
➤	Regional Utilities System	0	0
➤	Completion of Horizons Update	0	0
➤	Performing Arts Center	0	0
➤	Traffic Calming/Street Thoroughfare	0	0
➤	Minor League Sports Team	0	0
➤	East Greenville Boyd League Park II	0	0
➤	Downtown Hotel/Riverboat	0	0

The Council was then asked to vote for the most important item on the listings. The result of the vote was as follows:

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Containment of Crime – 2 votes
Reorganization of Government – 2 votes
Economic Development – 1 vote
Tenth Street Connector – 1 vote
Completion of the Revitalization Plan – 1 vote

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The Council then was asked to tell the things that they liked about the planning session. The responses were as follows:

➤ Best session we have had
➤ Laughter
➤ Janice Faulkner
➤ Good information
➤ Productive
➤ Good format
➤ Good structure
➤ Good discussion
➤ Food
➤ Honesty/interaction
➤ Commonality of goals
➤ Facilitator's City knowledge
➤ Good Council vision
➤ Close to staff's insights
➤ Improve quality of life both staff and Council (common goals)
➤ Discovery of shared vision
➤ Best—unstructured agenda
➤ Vision for the future
➤ No animosity
➤ Group participated openly
➤ Developed consensus
➤ Built relationship between Council

The following items were listed as negatives of this meeting.

➢ Cold
➢ Didn't recognize past accomplishments
➢ More staff participation
➢ Time elements
➢ What to do with information after identified
➢ Revisit this information in the coming year
➢ Look at shortcomings and institute policy to resolve them

Each staff member was asked to tell one thing that was accomplished during the past year. The items reported were as follows:

➢ Greater communication between departments
➢ Overall decrease in crime
➢ Efforts within government to gain revenues
➢ $400,000 grants and donation for River Park North
➢ Positive outcome with tight budget
➢ Dealt with stress of State's budget successfully/level of service
➢ Completion of flood recovery
➢ Completed major projects
➢ Start of revitalization initiative by creation of Redevelopment Commission
➢ Convention Center
➢ Service delivery levels improved this year

The Council was informed by Ms. Faulkner of the four principles of Aristotle. Ms. Faulkner informed them that those four principles should be used when representing the citizens: (1) truth, (2) revere beauty, (3) unity and (4) goodness. She commended the Council for offering their services to the citizens and asked that the Council do the best they can in their role as Council Members.

Mayor Parrott thanked the staff for their dedication and for accomplishing so much with limited funding during the past year. He also thanked Ms. Faulkner for donating her services to the City of Greenville for this planning session.

City Manager Davis presented Ms. Faulkner with a small token of appreciation for her contribution to the City.

ADJOURN

Motion was made by Council Member Craft and seconded by Council Member Glover to adjourn the meeting at 1:55 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Wanda T. Elks, CMC
City Clerk